

Serial No. 09/676,696

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the official action dated February 1, 2005.

Claim 60 has been amended to claim that the barrel portion of the fiber coupling assembly is detachable from the fiber optic cable. Therefore, Claim 60 is currently pending.

No claims are allowed.

Rejection of Claim 60 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Official Action states that claim 60 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,393,169 (Paniccia) in view of Leas U.S. Patent No. 6,019,523 (Honmou). The Examiner stated that Honmou does not disclose that the barrel portion of the fiber coupling assembly are detachable or disenagagable from the fiber optic cable. By way of this amendment, the Applicant has amended Claim 60 to claim that the barrel portion of the fiber coupling assembly is detachable from the fiber optic cable.

Accordingly, even if the cited references were combined, they would not disclose numerous limitations that are found within the claims of the present invention. If a person of ordinary skill in the art combined the teachings of Paniccia and Honmou, they would not arrive at the present invention. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the amendment after final rejection is entered and the rejection of claim 60 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

In summary, Applicants submit that the claim presented for consideration herein is patentable and each of the Examiner's rejections and objections has been overcome.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the amendment after final be entered and favorable reconsideration and allowance of amended Claim 60.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional required fee in connection with the filing of this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 02-0900.

Respectfully submitted,



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